

State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) and Training Grants

Total: \$190 million

Total Wyoming: \$2 million to \$4 million, if application is successful

- *Final amount will be determined by the U.S. Department of Labor*
- *Grants are competitive and not guaranteed*
- *The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services plans to apply for a grant*
- *Deadline for application is October 20, 2009*

Purpose and Principles: The Recovery Act provided \$750 million in competitive grants for worker training and placement in high-growth and emerging industries. Of that amount, \$500 million was designated for projects that prepare workers for careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. The Workforce Investment Act defines these sectors to include: the energy-efficient building, construction and retrofit industries; the renewable electric power industry; the energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry; the biofuels industry; the deconstruction and materials use industries; the energy efficiency assessment industry serving residential, commercial, or industrial sectors; and manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials. Additionally, the Department is interested in applicants who propose strategies that train for green occupations within the following industries: transportation; green construction; environmental protection; sustainable agriculture, including healthy food production; forestry; and recycling and waste reduction.

On June 24, 2009, the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration announced that the aforementioned \$500 million will be disbursed through five grant opportunities, including this \$190 million initiative. Awards will be made in increments of \$2 million to \$4 million to workforce development projects that focus on connecting target populations, including auto and auto-related industry workers affected by significant automotive-related restructurings, to career pathways in green industries. Grant funds awarded will be used to provide training, job placement and related activities that reflect a comprehensive statewide energy "sector strategy" including the Governor's overall workforce vision, state energy policies, and training activities that lead to employment in targeted industry sectors. A "sector strategy" is defined as a workforce development approach that targets the needs of a specific industry sector through an integrated system of education, training and supportive services that promotes skill attainment and career pathway development for workers. Sector strategies are designed and implemented by a range of institutions and groups working collaboratively, including community and faith-based organizations, business and industry groups, education institutions such as community and technical colleges, the public workforce system, labor-management partnerships, and others.

Grant Expenditure Period: The period of grant performance will be up to 36 months from the date of execution of the grant document.

Eligible Applicants: State Workforce Investment Boards in partnership with their State Workforce Agency, local Workforce Investment Boards or regional consortia of Boards and
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One Stop Career Center delivery systems. In Wyoming, the Wyoming Workforce Development Council serves as the State Workforce Investment Board, and the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services serves as both the State Workforce Agency as well as the One Stop Career Center delivery system.

Eligible costs: Training costs that are directly related to the provision of training for participants may include the following: faculty/instructors, including salaries and fringe benefits; in-house training staff; support staff such as lab or teaching assistants; classroom space, including laboratories, mock-ups or other facilities used for training purposes; classroom-supported internship programs; and books, materials and supplies used in the training course, including specialized equipment. Applicants may not charge any strategic planning activities to the grant.

Participants eligible to receive training: Projects must give priority for training and other services provided through the grant to the following target populations: A) Workers impacted by national energy and environmental policy; B) Individuals in need of updated training related to the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries; C) Veterans, or past and present members of reserve components of the Armed Forces; D) Unemployed individuals; E) Individuals, including at-risk youth, seeking employment pathways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency; and F) Individuals with a criminal record. Other individuals, such as untapped labor pools and entry-level and incumbent workers that do not fit into the categories above, may also be served through these projects.

Online Information: The Solicitation for Grant Application (SGA) can be found at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-14922.pdf>. A pre-recorded Webinar will be online and accessible for viewing by 1 p.m. MT on July 10, 2009, at <http://www.workforce3one.org>.

For More Information: Contact Rob Black, grants coordinator for the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, at (307) 777-8716, or rblack@state.wy.us.